

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed November 24, 2008, the Examiner rejected claims 18-20, 23-26, and 28-35; the Examiner has allowed claim 37 and objected to claim 36. By way of the foregoing amendments and the markings to show changes claims 18-20, 23-26, 28-35 and 37 remain pending. The foregoing amendments are taken in the interest of expediting prosecution and there is no intention of surrendering any range of equivalents to which Applicant would otherwise be entitled in view of the prior art.

Further, by the present amendment, it does not follow that the amended claims have become so perfect in their description that no one could devise an equivalent. After amendment, as before, limitations in the ability to describe the present invention in language in the patent claims naturally prevent the Applicants from capturing every nuance of the invention or describing with complete precision the range of its novelty or every possible equivalent. See, Festo Corp. v. Shoketsu Kinzoku Kogyo Kabushiki Co., 62 USPQ2d 1705 (2002). Accordingly, the foregoing amendments are made specifically in the interest of expediting prosecution and there is no intention of surrendering any range of equivalents to which Applicants would otherwise be entitled.

Allowable Subject Matter and Objected Claim

The Examiner has indicated that claim 37 is allowable and that claim 36 would be allowable if it were rewritten in independent form. Applicants have incorporated the limitations of claim 36 into its base independent claim (claim 18) and cancelled claim 36, to comply with the Examiner's suggestion. Applicants now believe that the objection is now moot and respectfully request that the currently pending claims amendments be entered and the case be allowed.

Claim Rejections 35 USC §102 and §103

The Examiner has rejected claims 18-20, 23-26, and 28-35 under either §102 or §103. The Applicants continue to traverse these rejections, but in an effort to expedite prosecution, without conceding the validity of the rejections, have amended claim 18 to overcome the objection to claim 36 (incorporating the limitations of claim 36 into claim 18). With this claim amendment, the rejections to the rejected claims are now moot and Applicants request that the rejections now be withdrawn.

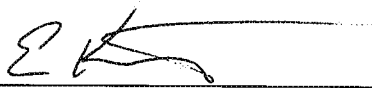
CONCLUSIONS

In view of Applicants' amendments and remarks, the Examiner's rejections are believed to be rendered moot. Accordingly, Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance and requests that the Examiner pass the case to issue at the earliest convenience. Should the Examiner have any question or wish to further discuss this application, Applicant requests that the Examiner contact the undersigned at (248) 292-2920.

If for some reason Applicant has not requested a sufficient extension and/or have not paid a sufficient fee for this response and/or for the extension necessary to prevent the abandonment of this application, please consider this as a request for an extension for the required time period and/or authorization to charge our Deposit Account No. 50-1097 for any fee which may be due.

Respectfully submitted,

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